



MULTIPLE JOBS HELP IDAHO WORKERS SUPPLEMENT INCOME

Idaho's work force maintains one of the nation's highest percentages of multiple job holders, and various studies suggest that reflects the quality of jobs in the labor market and the wages available to the state's workers.

The latest estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics identify 8.3 percent of Idaho's work force - about 60,000 workers - as having more than one job in 2006. That was up from 8 percent in 2005 and ranked ninth among the states.

Nationally, about 5.2 percent of the labor force - 7.5 million workers - held more than one job in 2006.

The estimates are based on responses from 60,000 households nationwide to the monthly Current Population Survey conducted by the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. About 800 of Idaho's nearly 550,000 households are surveyed each month.

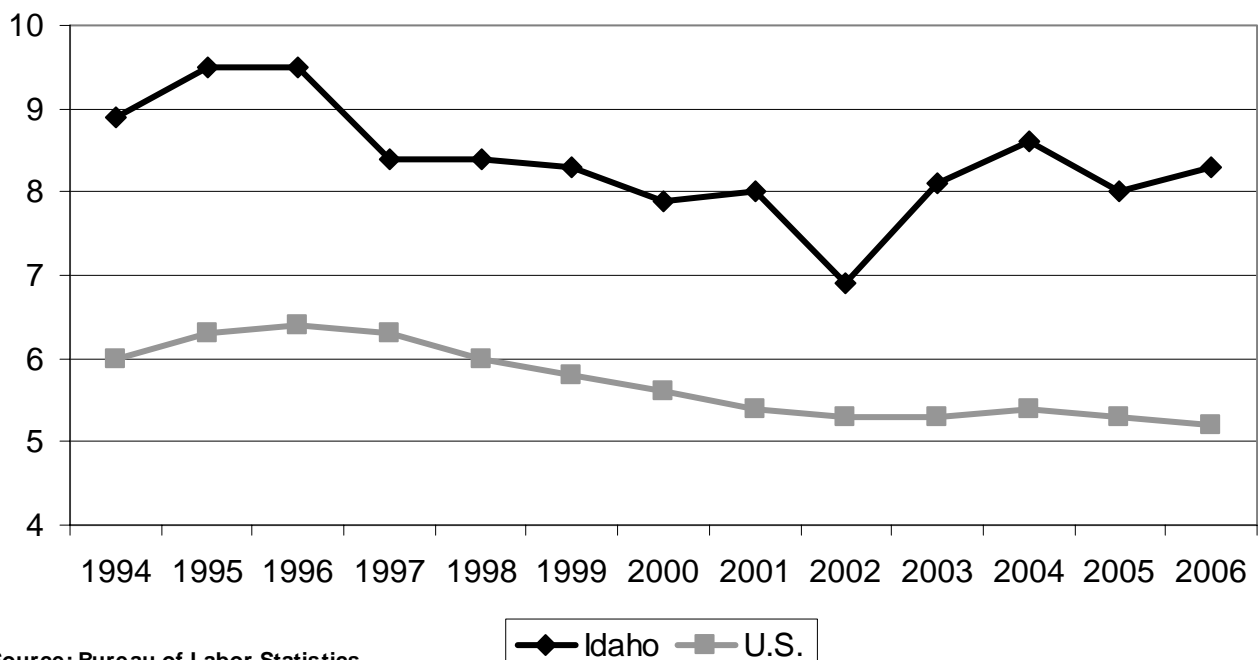
Idaho's multiple jobholding rate averaged 9.3 percent a year during the mid-1990s before dropping to an annual average of just over 8 percent in the years just preceding the national recession of 2001.

Since then it has fluctuated from a low of 6.9 percent in 2002, possibly because job creation in Idaho was flat during the recession and would-be multiple job holders had no room to maneuver, to 8.6 percent in 2004.

A multiple jobholder works two or more jobs for wages or works a job for wages and operates a personal business or works a job for wages and then as a unpaid family member in a business.

The reasons workers hold more than one job are varied, but research by the Bureau of Labor Statistics found at least one in four multiple job holders is simply trying to make ends meet or paying off debt.

FYI Chart 1: Percent of Workers Holding Multiple Jobs



There are those, especially some professionals, who have second jobs because they enjoy the work and others who are building their own businesses while working a regular job for a steady paycheck.

Some of Idaho's high percentage of multiple job holders results from the state's reputation for entrepreneurialism that has produced the 10th highest number of non-employee businesses per capita in the country. In 2005, the most recent year figures are available for, Idaho had over 106,000 non-employee businesses - nearly 75 for every 1,000 residents. Vermont was the highest at 96 per 1,000, and West Virginia was the lowest at just under 50 per 1,000 residents.

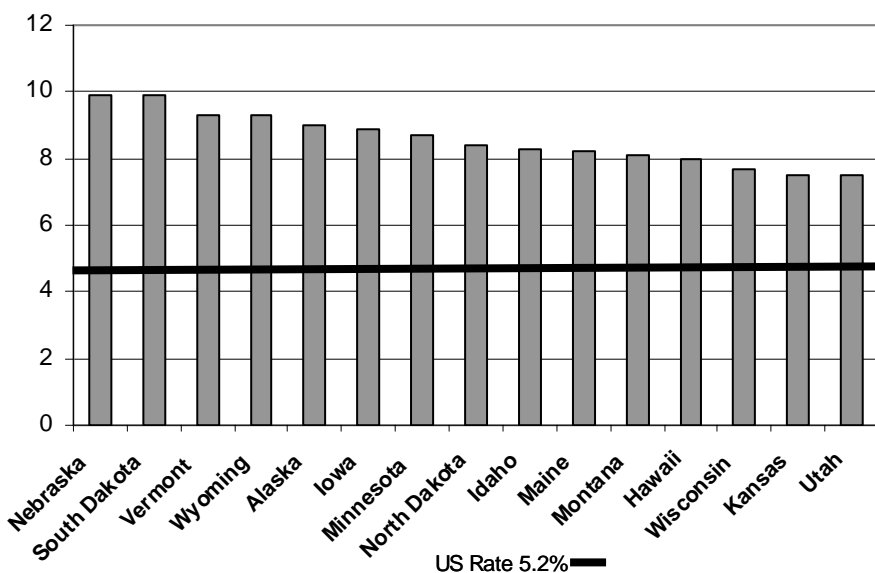
Some state research has also pegged the rate of multiple job holders to agriculture's economic prominence in a state and the harshness of its winter, concluding that more farmers and ranchers mean more multiple job holders, especially in less hospitable winter climates where outdoor work is severely restricted. With agriculture accounting for about 5 percent of the gross state product, at least some of Idaho's multiple jobholding rate could be attributed to this.

But research in neighboring Wyoming, Montana and Utah has linked high rates of multiple job holders with relatively lower wages, and a comparison of the states with the highest multiple jobholding rates, including Idaho, shows that in 2006 and generally over the last decade the average annual wages in those states have been among the lowest in the nation.

Idaho ranked ninth in percentage of multiple job holders in 2006 and 45th in average annual wage. Nebraska was first in multiple job holders and 40th in wages while South Dakota was second and 50th in wages.

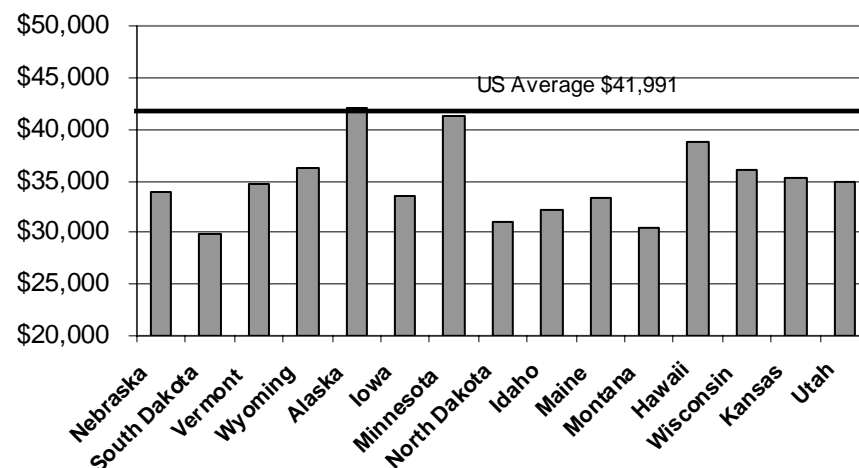
For the most part, the states with the highest percentage of multiple job holders had average annual wages ranking in the bottom third of all the states. The exceptions were Minnesota and Wisconsin, both

FYI Chart 2: States with Highest 2006 Percentage of Multiple Jobholders



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

FYI Chart 3: Average Annual Wage in Highest Multi-Jobholder States



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

heavily agricultural states in the nation's northern latitudes, and Alaska and Hawaii, whose economies are inflated from those in the contiguous 48 states.

Wyoming also moved out of the bottom third of wage states in 2006 as demand skyrocketed for workers in the high-paying oil patch.

See additional table on page 20.

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FYI Table – December 2007

FYI Table 1: Rankings of Highest Multiple Jobholders' Average Annual Wages

		Neb	SD	Vt	Wyo	Alaska	Iowa	Minn	ND	Idaho	Maine	Mont	Hawaii	Wis	Kan	Utah
2006	Wage	40	50	37	29	12	42	16	47	45	43	49	22	30	34	36
	Jobs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2005	Wage	40	50	34	36	13	42	14	47	46	41	49	22	30	33	37
	Jobs	5	3	8	1	4	6	7	2	12	14	10	13	15	9	11
2004	Wage	37	49	33	42	14	41	13	47	46	38	50	22	30	34	35
	Jobs	8	2	9	3	11	13	10	1	7	12	4	14	15	5	6
2003	Wage	37	49	33	42	13	41	14	47	46	38	50	23	29	34	35
	Jobs	2	5	4	9	12	14	8	1	10	11	7	13	15	6	3
2002	Wage	39	49	35	42	12	41	14	47	45	40	50	24	30	34	33
	Jobs	1	5	4	7	13	10	3	2	15	14	6	8	12	9	11
2001	Wage	39	49	34	42	14	41	13	48	45	40	50	26	29	32	31
	Jobs	1	6	13	5	10	9	7	2	12	16	4	3	11	8	14
2000	Wage	36	49	35	43	14	40	13	48	42	41	50	26	29	32	31
	Jobs	1	6	5	7	15	10	9	2	13	8	3	4	12	11	18
1999	Wage	38	49	35	43	12	41	13	48	42	39	50	24	28	32	31
	Jobs	6	5	9	7	8	11	3	1	12	15	2	4	13	10	18
1998	Wage	39	50	36	44	9	41	13	48	45	40	49	24	28	33	31
	Jobs	4	6	10	7	8	12	3	1	13	17	2	9	11	5	16
1997	Wage	38	50	36	43	7	41	12	49	45	40	48	21	28	33	32
	Jobs	1	4	10	8	16	9	5	2	14	11	6	12	7	3	17

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics